

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT PINS TU

SUBJ: STUDENT UNREST

1. SUMMARY. A STRONG POLITICAL REACTION HAS FOLLOWED STUDENT VIOLENCE IN ANKARA APRIL 8 WHICH CAUSED THE DEATHS OF THREE STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE VIOLENCE BEGAN EARLY APRIL 8 AT ANKARA UNIVERSITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AND AT THE ANKARA STATE ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING ACADEMY, WHEN STUDENTS WHO HAD DECIDED TO ATTEND CLASSES RATHER THAN BOYCOTTING WERE OPPOSED BY ARMED PERSONS (REPORTEDLY RIGHTISTS). HAKAN YURDAKULER, SON OF LIFE SENATOR MUZAFFER YURDAKULER, WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY INCIDENT. LATER THAT DAY, VIOLENCE BETWEEN LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST STUDENTS AT HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY LED TO A POLICE/JANDARMA SEARCH OF THE CAMPUS FOR
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WEAPONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, A GROUP OF LEFTIST STUDENTS, MAINLY FROM HACETTEPE, MARCHED TO PROTEST THE DAY'S EVENTS, PARTICULARLY YURDAKULER'S DEATH AND THE HACETTEPE SEARCH. THE MARCHERS WERE CONFRONTED BY RIOT POLICE WHOM THEY STONED AND THEN FIRED UPON.

IN RETURNING THE MARCHERS' FIRE, THE POLICE KILLED TWO STUDENTS. THAT EVENING, FOUR YOUNG MEN (ALL MUNICIPALITY OF ANKARA SANITATION WORKERS, AND AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM WERE ALSO STUDENTS) WERE ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. WHEN ARRESTED THE FOUR WERE USING AN AUTOMOBILE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF TEOMAN KOPRULULER, ANKARA PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLIC PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP).

3. FOLLOWING THE VIOLENT INCIDENTS, POLITICAL FIGURES ONCE MORE RETURNED TO THE STUDENT PROBLEM WITH MEETINGS, STATEMENTS, AND BITTER ACCUSATIONS:

A. DOMESTIC SECURITY WAS THE REPORTED TOPIC OF SEPARATE MEETINGS BY PRESIDENT KOCUTURK WITH MIN INTERIOR ASILTURK (NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, NSP) AND ACTING CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF GENERAL ERSUN APRIL 8.

B. IN A SHORT STATEMENT TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING APRIL 8. PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL EXPRESSED REGRET THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AS YET UNSUCCESSFUL IN STOPPING STUDENT UNREST AND CALLED FOR "EVERYONE'S HELP" IN THIS TASK. DEMIREL DENIED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS REALLY AN "EDUCATIONAL" ONE AND STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WAS SERIOUSLY PONDERING THE NECESSITY OF HOW TO REMOVE FROM PEOPLE'S MINDS THE IDEA OF KILLING AND BEING KILLED." SPEAKING TO REPORTERS APRIL 9, DEMIREL SAID THE OPPOSITION'S CHARGES AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT (BELOW) WERE "NOTING BUT AN EFFORT TO WEAR DOWN THE GOVERNMENT." HE EMPHASIZED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT IS EXERTING EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW. ANYTHING SAID TO THE CONTRARY IS ALL LIES AND CALUMNY". HE ALSO SAID THAT HIS PARTY WAS IN A COALITION WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, NOT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THOSE PARTIES (A REFERENCE TO THE RIGHTIST "COMMANDO" GROUPS AFFILIATED WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TURKES' NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY, WHICH ARE FREQUENTLY BLAMED FOR ATTACKING LEFTIST STUDENTS).

C. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TURHAN FEYZIOGLU (CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY, RR) TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 8 THAT HIS PARTY WANTS NO DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING FIRM GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION AGAINST STUDENT VIOLENCE AND THAT "THOSE MINISTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC ORDER MUST DO BETTER." (COMMENT: THE RR DOES NOT HOLD ANY OF THE MINISTRIES IN QUESTION. MININTERIOR AND MINJUSTICE ARE BOTH HELD BY NSP MEMBERS.) SUBSEQUENTLY, FEYZIOGLU HIMSELF WAS ATTACKED WITH FISTS AT THE PARLIAMENT BY TWO RPP DEPUTIES WHO WERE ANGRY OVER A PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER.

D. THE SENATE'S NATIONAL UNITY GROUP (REPEATING FORMER PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1960 REVOLUTION, MOST OF WHOM SUPPORT THE RPP) HELD AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF THE SON OF SENATOR YURDAKULER, ONE OF THEIR

MEMBERS. RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT VISITED THE NATIONAL UNITY GROUP MEETING, REPORTEDLY TO OFFER HIS CONDOLENCES TO YURDAKULER. LIFE SENATOR FAHRI OZDILEK STATED THAT ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT " OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS" CALLED INTO QUESTION THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMACY AND HAD BROUGHT " THE COUNTRY TO THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR."(SUBSEQUENTLY, ECEVIT ALSO REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THE " SITUATION HAS ESCALATED TO THE POINT OF CIVIL WAR.") IN ADDITION, THE NATIONAL UNITY GROUP SENT TELEGRAMS TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK AND ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF ERSUN PROTESTING THE DEATH OF YURDAKULER'S SON AND ALLEGING THAT THE ATTACKERS HAD ACTED " UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE POLICE."

E. SEVEN RPP PARLIAMENTARIANS ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT ACCUSING THE POLICE AND ANKARA UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTING YOUNG YURDAKULER'S MURDERERS AND ASSERTING THAT THE DEATH WAS PART OF THE " GOVERNMENT'S REVENGE FOR THE MAY 27 (1960) REVOLUTION."

F. AFTER A MEETING OF THE RPP'S CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BOARD, PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL EYUBOGLU SAID THAT, "THE GOVERNMENT HAS, KNOWINGLY AND WILLINGLY, CARRIED OUT THESE BLOODY INCIDENTS. IF THE GOVERNMENT REALLY WANTS TO DO SO, IT CAN STOP THEM."

G. RPP INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN SENT TO HACETTEPE AND ANKARA UNIVERSITIES TO PREPARE REPORTS ON THE INCIDENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE RPP JOINT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP.

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4. COMMENT: THE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED ABOVE CONFIRM OUR CONTINUING CONCERN THAT THE PROBLEM OF CIVIL DISORDER HAS BY NO MEANS BEGUN TO RUN ITS COURSE. UNFORTUNATELY THE PROSPECT IS FOR CONTINUING DISORDERS AHEAD, AS WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE YET THAT THE RIVAL PARTIES ARE PREPARED TO POOL THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. RATHER THEY STILL SEEM TO BE FOCUSING THEIR EFFORTS ON FIXING THE BLAME ON EACH OTHER AND ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES.

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